DEC 15 2010

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals
Superintendent of Schools
Duval County Public Schools
1701 Prudential Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Complaint (b)(6)
Family Educational Rights
and Privacy Act

Dear Mr. Pratt-Dannals:

(b)(6) has filed a complaint with the Department of Education alleging that Duvall County Public Schools (District) violated rights afforded parents by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This office, under authority of § 99.60 of the FERPA regulations (copy enclosed), investigates complaints in accordance with the procedures outlined in § 99.65. The section states in summary:

- The office notifies the complainant and the educational agency or institution against which the violation has been alleged, in writing, if it initiates an investigation of a complaint.

- The notification to the agency or institution under this section includes the substance of the alleged violation and asks the agency or institution to submit a written response to the complaint.

This letter serves to notify you of the allegations and to provide you the opportunity to submit a written response.

By letter dated July 7 and July 30, 2010, the Parent alleges that the District violated § 99.30 of the FERPA regulations by improperly disclosing information from her daughter Heather's (Student) education records. Section 99.30 states:

> [A]n educational agency or institution shall obtain a signed and dated written consent . . . before it discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records.

Specifically, the Parent alleges that on February 16, 2010, the Student's teacher, Ms. Mary Lewis, "submitted our daughter's assignments twice to Turnitin, an online plagiarism prevention service, by . . . typing in our daughter's name on the submission to identify her." Furthermore, the Parent writes:

> The original assignment on Expository entitled Leadership Essay and the Rewrite was turned into the teacher on 1/28/10. This assignment was graded and inputted in the grade book on 2/4/10. Then on 2/16/10 at 8:58 PM EST Ms. Lewis submitted our daughter's Rewrite of the Leadership Essay first through Turnitin.com which the teacher willfully typed in our daughter's name identifying her on this already graded educational records. Secondly, Ms. Lewis on 2/16/10 at 8:59 PM EST (one minute later) ran our daughter's original Leadership Essay through Turnitin.com by identifying our daughter again on the submission.

To complete the procedure outlined in § 99.65(a)(2) of the FERPA regulations, please investigate the Parent's allegation and provide this office a written response within four weeks after you receive this letter. Please refer to complaint number 1470 in any correspondence regarding this complaint.

If you have any questions concerning the Act or the complaint procedure, you may contact Ms. Ingrid Brault of my staff. The name, address, and telephone number of this office are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520
(202) 260-3887

Sincerely,

Ellen Campbell
Acting Director
Family Policy Compliance Office

Enclosure

cc: Parent